(c) if so, the salient points raised and the areas of agreement reached during these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Both India and Australia welcomed the move by US to attempt a new security framework. Both sides also concurred that the Russians should be duly consulted before amending the ABM Treaty. The two sides further resolved to continue to discuss this matter along with other security-related issues, by setting up a new mechanism, the "India-Australia Strategic Dialogue" at the senior officials level, scheduled to hold its first meeting in August, 2001. The Dialogue will have Civilian and Military participation from both countries.

Indo-Pak Free Trading Agreement

3408. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with Pakistan for establishing Free Trading Agreement (FTA) on the lines of India, Sri Lanka (FTA) for greater trade investment flow and strengthening of economic relationship;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) if not, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In his opening statement at the plenary of the India-Pakistan Summit in Agra on 15th July, 2001 Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed that a group of experts of both countries be constituted to recommend measures to increase bilateral trade, economic and technical interaction between the two countries. Pakistan is yet to respond to this proposal.

Attorney General's Address to UN Sub-Commission

3409. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: